Remarks

The non-final Office Action dated March 3, 2008 indicates an objection to the drawings and lists the following rejections: claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Mizuta reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,571); claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta reference; claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta reference in view of the Akiyama reference (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0043699); claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta reference in view of the Letavic reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,341); claims 11-15 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta reference in view of the Mercier reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,895); claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta and Mercier references and further in view of the Akiyama reference; and claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Mizuta and Mercier references and further in view of the Letavic reference.

In response to the objection to the objection to the drawings, Applicant has amended the specification to remove reference numeral 104 as indicated on page 2 of this paper, and Applicant has attached a replacement drawing sheet in which reference numeral 404 has been removed from Figure 4 as indicated on page 3 of this paper. Thus, Applicant requests that the objection to the drawings be removed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10 and the § 103(a) rejections of claims 4-6, 9 and 11-21 (each of which is based on the Mizuta reference) because the cited portions of Mizuta do not correspond to the claimed invention which includes, for example, aspects directed to dynamically connecting selected segments of the field plate to set the gate-to-drain capacitance (C_{GD}) and the drain-to-source capacitance (C_{DS}). The Office Action erroneously asserts that the Mizuta reference teaches dynamically connecting respective field control electrodes 9 to set the C_{GD} and the C_{DS}. *See, e.g.,* Figure 9 and Col. 7:66 to Col. 8:15. The cited portions of the Mizuta reference do not mention any such dynamic connection of the field control electrodes 9. Instead, Mizuta teaches that all of the field control electrodes may be connected with the gate electrode, or that the nearest field control electrode is set at the same potential as the gate electrode and some of the rest of the field control electrodes are at the same potential as the source electrode, or that the voltage applied to a plurality of field control electrodes may

be changed dynamically. Thus, the cited portions of the Mizuta reference teach that the voltage applied to the field control electrodes 9 can be dynamically changed, not that the field control electrodes 9 can be dynamically connected as in the claimed invention. Accordingly, the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10 and the § 103(a) rejections of claims 4-6, 9 and 11-21 are improper and Applicant requests that they be withdrawn.

Notwithstanding the above, in an effort to facilitate prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to recite that first and second groups of the segments of the field plate are selected in response to a selection signal, the first group being connected to the gate and the second group being connected to the source to set the C_{DG} and the C_{DS}. Applicant submits that the cited portions of the Mizuta reference do not teach or suggest such aspects. For example, Mizuta does not teach selecting groups of segments of a field plate in response to a selection signal and connected these groups to the gate and source. *See, e.g.,* Figure 9 and Col. 7:66 to Col. 8:15. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 1-21 be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections/objections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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Attachment: One Drawing Sheet